(a) the number of recommendations that have been given by the Knowledge Commission, so far;

(b) the number of recommendations that have been accepted by Government, so far;

(c) the reasons for not accepting the recommendations; and

(d) the Ministries which are involved in the implementation of aforesaid recommendations of the Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The details of reports are available on its website:

http://www.knowledgecommission.gov.in

(b) to (d) The reports/recommendations are presently under examination in consultation with the concerned Central Ministries and State Governments.

Special category status to Orissa

1498. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CM/Orissa, during the last NDC meeting, while spelling out three-pronged strategy for tackling the challenging task of reduction in regional, social and gender disparities and achieving faster, broad-based and inclusive growth in the Orissa State, has repeated his earlier demand for grant of Special Category status of Orissa State to achieve the objective;

(b) if so, the status thereof; and

(c) the time-frame within which the above long-standing demand of this backward region would be considered and agreed to?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) The Chief Minister of Orissa, in his speech in the 54th NDC meeting, urged the National Development Council to redefine criteria for according Special Category Status to a State, and reiterated the State's claim to be treated as a Special Category State. The NDC has not accepted this demand.

Special package to Rajasthan

†1499. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to grant special package to Rajasthan in public interest keeping in view its various circumstances like two third area of the State being drought prone due to continuous scanty rains and large area adjoining international border, as has been done in case of North Eastern States, Jammu & Kashmir, Assam, Manipur and Himachal Pradesh by providing them special status;

(b) if so, whether Government have formulated any scheme in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) Presently no such proposal for Rajasthan is under consideration of the Union Government.

Condition of roads under NHDP

1500. SHRI KESHUBHAI S. PATEL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints have been received by Government regarding bad condition of roads under NHDP; and

(b) if so, the numbers thereof and the steps taken by the NHAI for redressal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS(SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Complaints have been received regarding bad condition of various roads under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) from time to time. A large number of these complaints were due to damage of roads during heavy rains and poor maintenance owing to non-performance of contractors.

National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has taken adequate steps to address this situation which include carrying out urgent repair work, re-surfacing, termination of contract of non-performing contractors and re-awarding the work etc. Provisions have been made in the operation & maintenance contracts to ensure that road is made traffic worthy and serviceable. Flood damage repair is also undertaken as and when required.

Cost of Golden Quadrilateral

1501. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:
SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state the cost/km of the Golden Quadrilateral and how does it compare with costs in China or Thailand or Malaysia for similar roads?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): So far, 5640, km of Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) has been 4-laned. The cumulative expenditure incurred upto January, 2008 on the entire length is Rs. 27,713.06 crores @ Rs. 4.9136 crore per km. No such comparison of costs in China, Thailand or Malaysia for similar roads has been done.

Four-Laning of NH-42 in Orissa

1502. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to four-lane NH-42, as there has been a spurt in accidents on